Letters written by MPs to Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs

4807. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The details of letters written by the members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS. (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) during the period 1.4.1994 to 31.3.1995 as many as 334 letters were received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Out of them 112 were acknowledged and final replies were sent in respect of 122 letters. Replies to remaining letters wherever, necessary are being processed.

Finance to poor litigants

4808. SHRI V. HANUNANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to finance the poor litigants to help them at High Court and Supreme Court level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps Government are taking to assist the poor litigants to get justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) There are, Legal Aid Committees at the High Courts and Supreme Court levels, which provide free legal services to the eligible poor litigants. There is no other proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Criteria to Expand Office of Register of Companies

4809. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria adopted by Government to expand offices of Registrar of Companies in States;

(b) whether there are more than one office of Registrar of Companies in any State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government recognises the need for opening of additional offices of Registrar of companies in states with large number of companies. However, no final decision has been taken in this regard and the jurisdiction of such offices have not been finalised.

(b) and (c) In the State of Tamilnadu, there are two Registrars of Companies viz., one at Madras and other at Coimbatore. In Maharashtra, there is one Registrar of Companies at Bombay for the entire State and he also looks after the branch office in Bombay.

Hindi version of 152nd Report of Law Commission

4810. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 740 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1995 and state:

(a) when the Hindi translation relating to the 152nd Report of the 13th Law Commission on custodial crimes was actually started; and

(b) by when it will be over and will be laid on the table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS. (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A copy of

the report was sent for Hindi translation in September, 1994 and Hindi version of the report was received in April, 1995. Steps are being taken to make copies of the report both in Hindi and English for placing the same before both Houses of Parliament in the current session.

Legal Aid Scheme in Punjab

4811. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Legal Aid Scheme for the poor and weaker sections of the society is available in the country, particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/District-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to create awareness in the matter among poor people of the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per existing Legal Aid Scheme, every citizen whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs.6,000/—is eilgible for free legal aid upto High Court level. This income-limit is, however, not applicable to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women and Children etc.

(d) Legal Literacy is one of the programmes adopted by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS). Under the programme, Legal Literacy Camps are organised in the rural areas by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and social Action Groups with the financial assistance provided by CILAS. Booklets, pamphlets etc. for legal awareness are published in the regional languages for distribution at these.

Report of the Committee to revise the fee payable to Notaries

4812. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee set up by the Central Government to revise the fee payable to the Notaries has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) what action has so far been taken by Government on the findings of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A Committee was set up in March, 1994 to review and study all aspects relating to the administration of the Notaries Act, 1952 and the rules made thereunder. The Committee has since submitted its report which contained recommendations for amending various provisions of the aforesaid Act and rules. The report is under examination of the Government. No final decision has been taken on the recommendations contained in the report.

Establishing High Court Benches at Madras

4813. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 2784 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1995 and state:

(a) when the Tamil Nadu Government last approached Madras High Court on this issue, the details thereof;

(b) when the Central Government last approached the State Government on the issue;

(c) what steps do the Government plan to implement the recommendation;